

Remarks/Arguments

This is a response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 26, 2007 wherein claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being directly anticipated by the reference to Beyaert, US Patent 6,009,918. For the reasons set forth below, reconsideration of this rejection and favorable consideration and allowance of the claims requested. Claim 10 has been canceled and rewritten in independent format as new claim 14 and claims 11 and 12 and 15-17 have been added. No new matter is being added.

The reference to Beyaert discloses a heald frame wherein at least one heald is provided that engages at least one catching member that is mounted to at least one cross member of the frame. Further, the reference discloses that a damping member or inset may be used that is engageable by portions of one end of the at least one heald as the heald is vertically oscillated. The structure is similar to the prior art discussed in the Brief Description of the Related Art portion of the present application as only a single damping member is provided that is engageable with only one end portion of the heald. Thus, the heald and the cross members are still subject to being vibrated when engaged.

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Submitted with this response is a copy of the drawings of the Bayaert reference wherein one end of each heald is shown as not contacting any of the frame or adjacent catching member when the opposite end of the heald is engaging the catching member adjacent thereto. The spacing of the ends are clearly shown. This is unlike the structure of the present invention wherein when the compression zone at one end of the at least one heald engages an adjacent damping means, the other end thereof engages an adjacent catching member. In the preferred embodiments of the drawings, when the other end of the at least one heald engages a second damping element carried by an adjacent catching or cross member, the traction zone at the one end of the heald engages an adjacent catching member. A copy of the drawings of the present invention showing the areas of contact are attached to this response.

As the present invention causes both of the ends of the heald to be engaged with with an opposing catching member or damping element carried by a catching or cross member at the same time, vibrations and bending of the cross members and wear on the healds is substantially reduced. The benefits obtain by the substantially simultaneous double areas of contact of the heald

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are clearly discussed beginng at line 22 of page 7 of the present application continuing through line 31 of page 8.

As the structure of Beyaert does not teach nor anticipate the generally simultaneous double points of contact, the structure can not anticipate applicants' invention as claimed. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-9 and 11-17 should be in condition for allowance and thus favorable consideration and allowance of the claims is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the amendments submitted herewith, or the allowability of the claims, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number provided below for purposes of facilitating the further prosecution of this application and to schedule a personal interview before taking any action that may be considered as final.

As this response is being filed after the shortened statutory period, a request for a one month extension of time is submitted herewith together with the required government fee. Any fee deficiencies may be charged to deposit account 04-1577.

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Respectfully submitted,

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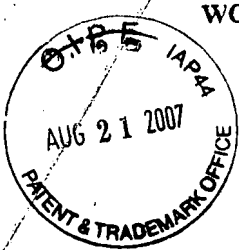


FIG. 2 FIG. 3

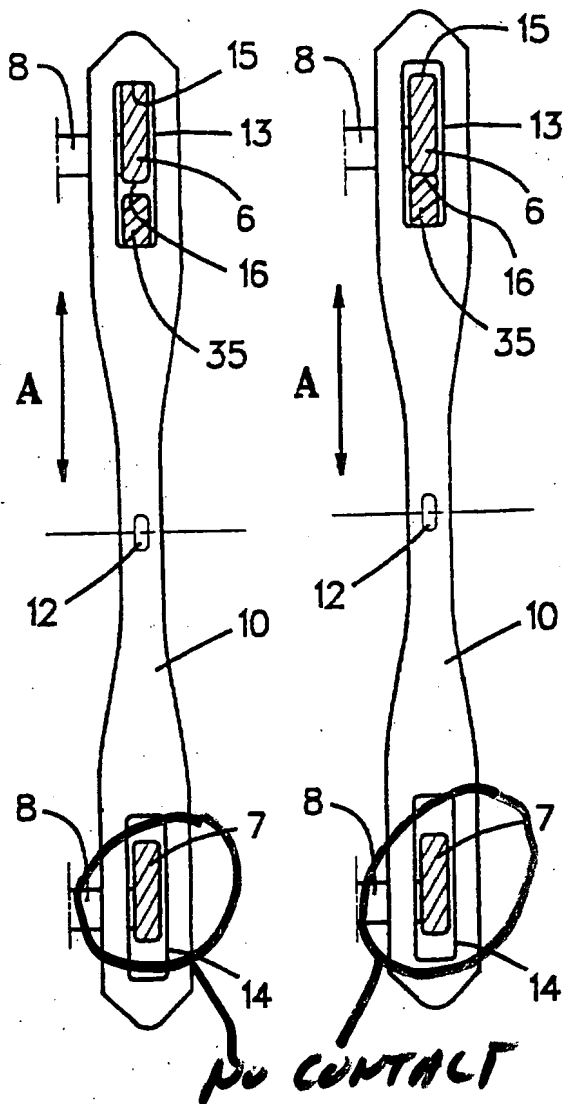


FIG. 4 FIG. 5

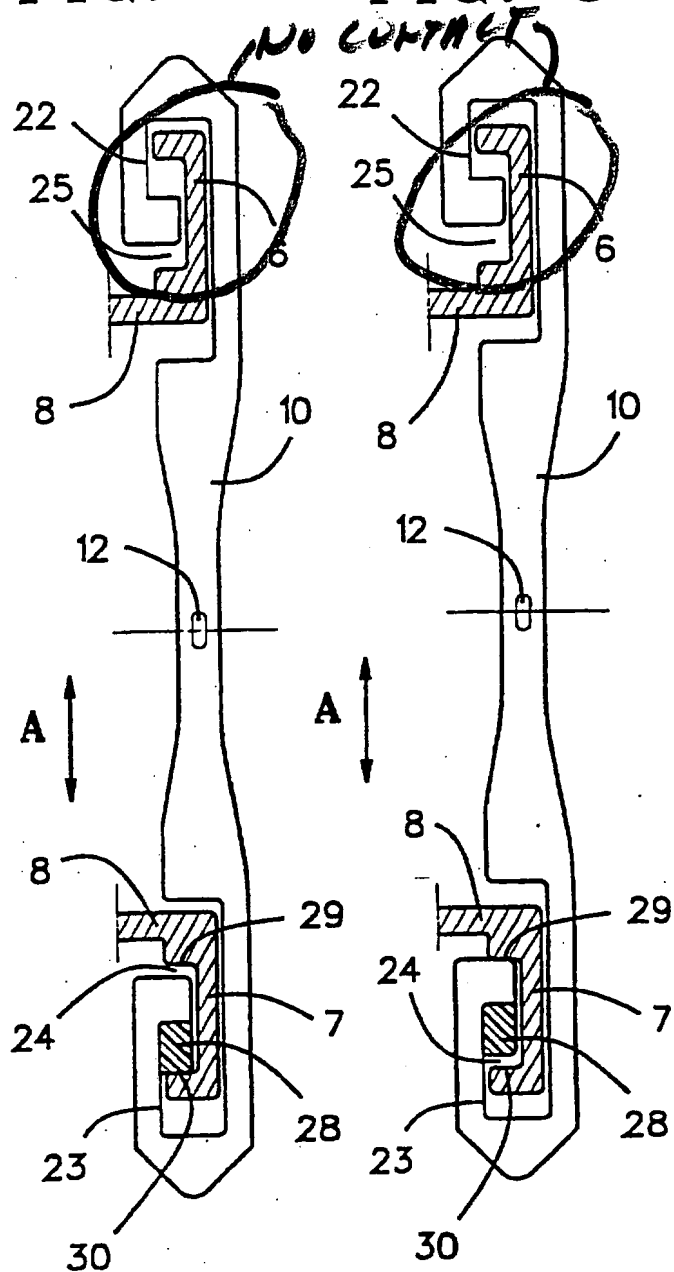




FIG. 6 FIG. 7

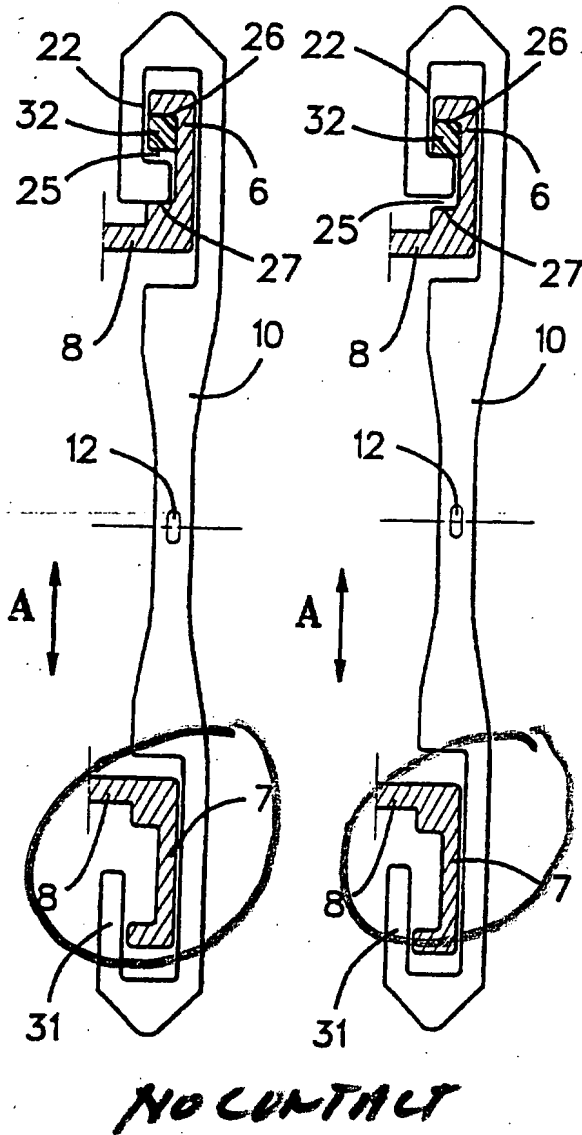


FIG. 8 FIG. 9

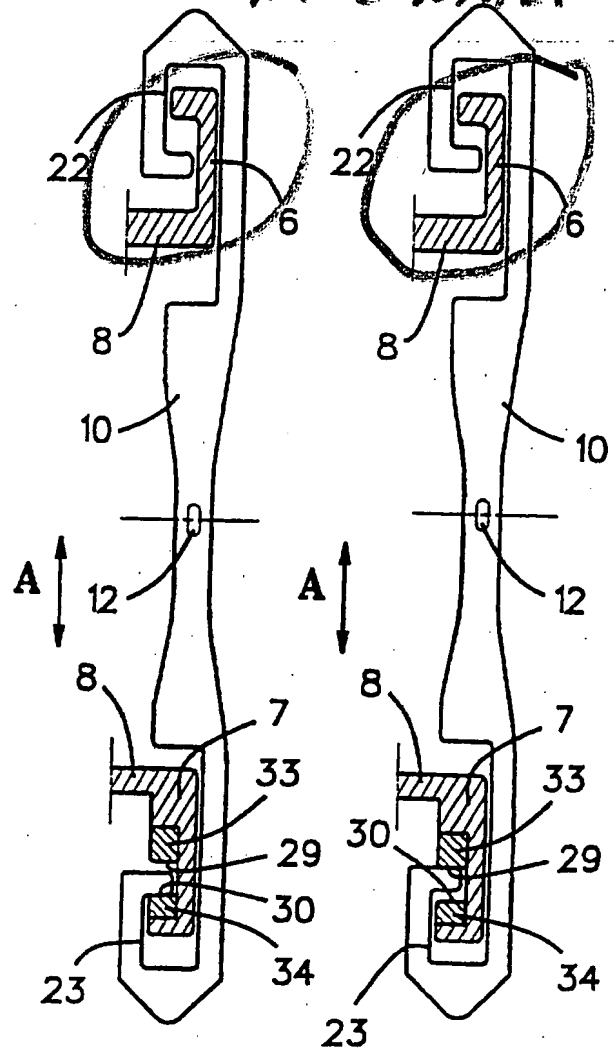


FIG. 10

FIG. 11

FIG. 13

FIG. 12

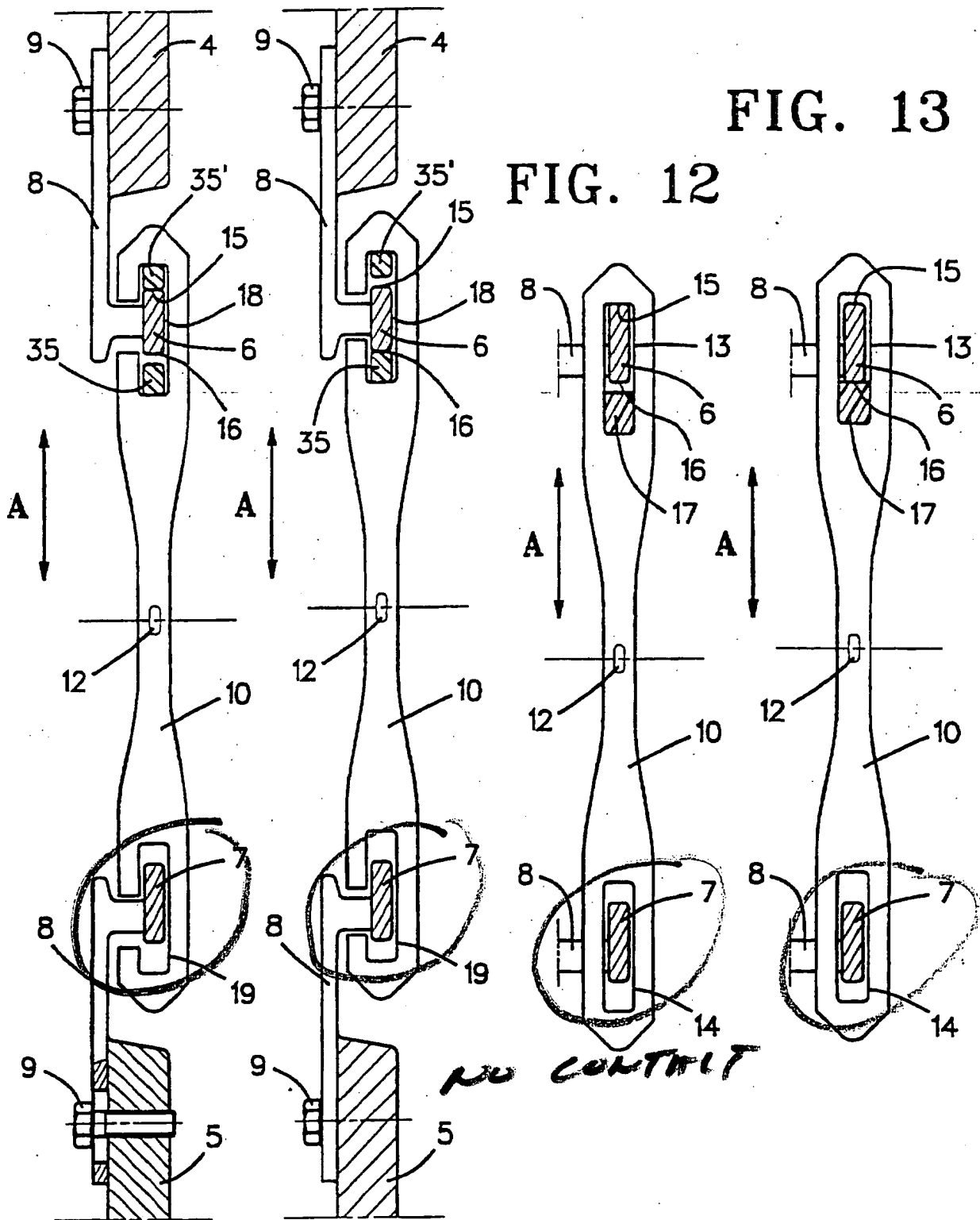
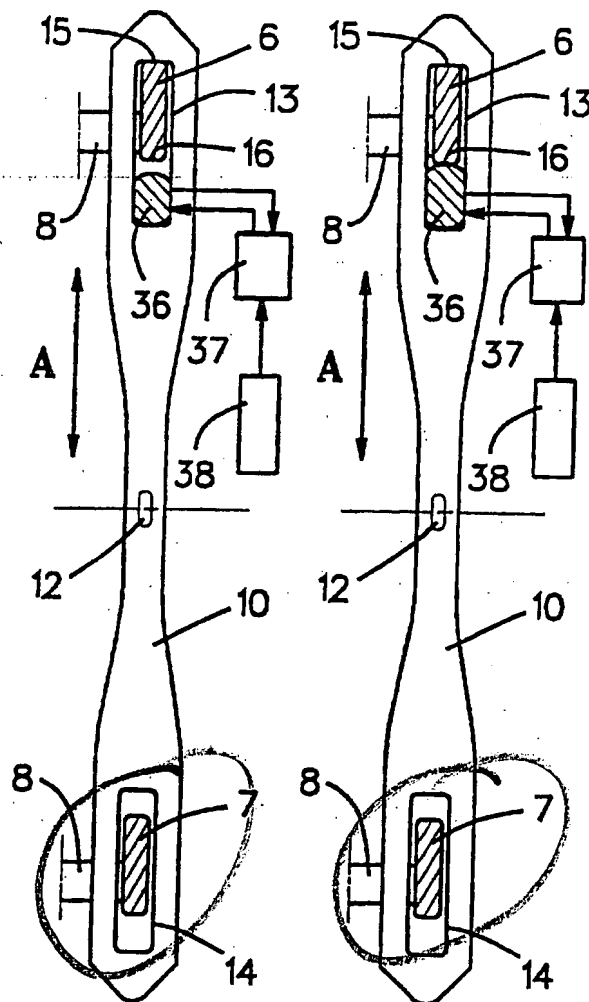




FIG. 14

FIG. 15



NO CONTACT